

CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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First cast-stone treatment samples produced with Hanford tank waste

RICHLAND, Wash.— CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. (CH2M HILL) is testing a new treatment method by mixing selected Hanford tank waste with additives to cast a stone-like material in retrievable containers for disposal.

The containerized cast-stone method is one of three supplemental treatment technologies CH2M HILL is investigating for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of River Protection to treat low-level or low-level mixed tank waste for disposal on or off the Hanford Site. The treatment methods are called supplemental technologies because they would be used to supplement Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant, which is currently under construction.

"While grouts are commonly used throughout the world to immobilize radioactive and hazardous waste, we want to look at the latest advances in treatment technologies and see how they could work with Hanford tank wastes," said Dale Allen, CH2M HILL Hanford Group senior vice president of Strategic Planning and Mission Analysis. "Success in evaluating and deploying the right technologies is critical to treating all of Hanford's tank waste by 2028."

In April, CH2M HILL Hanford Group awarded a contract to Fluor Federal Services, Inc. to conduct the first phase of testing. Members of the Fluor Federal Services, Inc. contract team include Duratek Federal Services, Inc., the 222-S Laboratories operated by Fluor Hanford, Inc., Portage Environmental, Inc and the Center for Laboratory Science at Columbia Basin College.

The initial testing is being conducted with non-radioactive simulated waste in a laboratory on the campus of Columbia Basin College, in Pasco, Wash., by the Center for Laboratory Science. Testing with actual tank waste will then follow at the 222-S Laboratory on the Hanford site. Under its contract with CH2M HILL, Fluor Federal Services will also provide pre-conceptual engineering for a full-scale production system.

After that first phase of work, an evaluation of containerized cast stone and other supplemental treatment technologies will enable the Office of River Protection to decide the best way to move forward on building and operating facilities to provide supplemental treatment of Hanford tank waste.

(more)

Supplemental treatment contract....

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The potential treatment method would accelerate Hanford tank cleanup by reducing the amount of waste requiring glassification in the Waste Treatment Plant. The cast-stone applications being considered for use at Hanford consist of mixing tank waste high in salt content with dry materials, then casting the mixture in a container suitable for land disposal. The mixture is also formulated to immobilize, or hold, technetium, a long-lived radionuclide of concern in Hanford tank waste.

“Up until this point, the method has commonly been referred to as containerized grout, but we have found in doing some initial testing that the material is more comparable in density and permeability to marble,” said Rick Raymond, supplemental treatment director for CH2M HILL Hanford Group. “Calling it cast stone more accurately describes the material’s properties, because it is significantly more dense and less porous than previous grout treatment methods considered at Hanford or the kind of grout one might buy at a home improvement store.”

CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. is the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection prime contractor with responsibility for cleaning up and closing Hanford’s tank facilities, including retrieving for treatment and disposing of approximately 53 million gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste stored in 177 large underground tanks.

It is part of the CH2M HILL family of employee-owned companies that provides engineering, construction, operations, and related technical services to public and private clients in numerous industries. The firm's work is concentrated in the areas of water, energy, environment, transportation, telecommunications, construction, and industrial facilities. CH2M HILL has more than 10,000 employees in 165 offices worldwide.

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